

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed 4/20/2010.
2. Claims 1-16 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 4/16/2010 is being considered by the examiner. The cited documents identified as "**JP Office Action**" and "**KR Office Action**" are considered but a strikethrough of these cited documents is applied because these documents are official documents that were sent to the applicant in response to examination of patent applications and cannot be listed in a printed patent publication.

Examiner's Amendment

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
5. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ahsan A. Shaikh (61,861) on December 10, 2010. The examiner's amendment is necessitated to further clarify the claimed invention cited in the independent claims.
6. Claims 7, 9, and 13 have been amended below:

7. (Currently Amended) An extensible educational system having educational content comprising:

a computer-readable memory configured to store a user interface;

a plug-in manager configured to install a file compatible with an application program interface (API),

wherein the installed file utilizes the known API to add new functionality to the extensible education system by modifying the user interface, the new functionality invoked by the modified user interface to provide ~~providing~~ an additional ability to edit the educational content, and

wherein the file specifies one or more roles of a user that can utilize the enhanced system functionality; and

an authentication user interface configured to verify a role of a user in the extensible educational system, and grant or deny ~~[[a]]~~ the user access, based on the role of the user in the extensible educational system, to use the additional ability provided by the new functionality to edit the educational content, wherein the role of a user comprises at least one of: user administrator, course administrator, system support, observer, support, portal administrator, system administrator, instructor, student and teacher' s assistant.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an extensible educational system having educational content, the method comprising:

displaying a user interface;

invoking a plug-in manager configured to install a file compatible with an application program interface (API),

wherein the installed file utilizes the known API to add new functionality to the extensible education system by modifying the user interface, the new functionality invoked by the modified user interface to provide ~~providing~~ an additional ability to edit the educational content, and

wherein the file specifies one or more roles of a user that can utilize the enhanced system functionality; and

invoking an authentication user interface configured to verify a role of a user in the extensible educational system, and grant or deny ~~[[a]]~~ the user access, based on the role of the user in the extensible educational system, to use the additional ability provided by the new functionality to edit the educational content.

13. (Currently Amended) A Non-transitory computer readable medium, which when executed on a computer performs a method for providing an extensible educational system having educational content, the method comprising:

displaying a user interface;

invoking a plug-in manager configured to install a file compatible with an application program interface (API),

wherein the installed file utilizes the known API to add new functionality to the extensible education system by modifying the user interface, the new functionality

Art Unit: 2191

invoked by the modified user interface to provide ~~providing~~ an additional ability to edit the educational content, and

wherein the file specifies one or more roles of a user that can utilize the enhanced system functionality; and

invoking an authentication user interface configured to verify a role of a user in the extensible educational system, and grant or deny ~~[[a]]~~ the user access, based on the role of the user in the extensible educational system to use the additional ability provided by the new functionality to edit the educational content.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

8. The prior arts, such are US 6,470,171 to Helmick and US 7,107,548 to Shafron, taken alone or in combination fail to teach or reasonably render obvious the claimed invention as recited in the independent claims 1, 7, 9, and 13. More specifically, the cited prior arts do not teach "***if the user has rights to utilize the enhanced system functionality based on the role of the user, then granting access to the user to use the additional ability provided by the enhanced system functionality to edit the educational content***" when taken in the context of the claim as a whole.

9. The applicant's response filed 4/20/2010 is helpful in clarifying the record of the prosecution by clearly distinguishing the differences between the claimed invention and the prior arts of record.

Art Unit: 2191

10. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHILLIP H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 270-1070. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM EST.

12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Y. Zhen can be reached on (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/643,074
Art Unit: 2191

Page 7

PN
12/14/10

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